

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03637 241539Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02
AGRE-00 NSC-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 H-01 IO-13 ICA-11 /089 W
-----102047 250218Z /14
R 241537Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 03637

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL
PROBLEMS- POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. I SHARE COMPLETELY SECRETARY VANCE'S AND ADMINISTRATOR
GILLIGAN'S CONCERNS AS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL. AS APPROPRI-
ATE IN MY NORMAL CONTACTS I HAVE DISCUSSED--AND WILL CON-
TINUE TO DISCUSS--WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE PANA-
MANIAN LEADERSHIP THE NEED FOR CONTINUOUS PRIORITY ATTEN-
TION TO PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE RAPID POPULATION
GROWTH AND INCREASE SELF-HELP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY STAFF TO DO THE SAME.

2. I LOOK TO AID TO CARRY THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR
MAINTAINING A CONTINUING DIALOG WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON
THIS SUBJECT.

3. THE TASK IS MADE EASIER IN PANAMA BECAUSE OF THE
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES OF THE GOP. AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT
OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS TO PLACE INCREASED
EMPHASIS ON THE REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME THROUGH INCREASED
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AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION. AID HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN
THIS PROCESS HERE AND, AMONG OTHERS, HAS TWO LARGE LOAN
PROJECTS WHICH COMPLEMENT THE GOP'S EFFORTS DIRECTLY:
THE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE TONOSI
AREA AND A RURAL EDUCATION PROJECT TO ESTABLISH PRODUC-
TION-ORIENTED SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL AREAS.

4. WHILE PANAMA HAS NO OFFICIAL POPULATION POLICY, IT HAS MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING ITS INFORMAL TARGET OF A 2 PERCENT GROWTH RATE BY THE YEAR 2000. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THE GROWTH RATE HAS FALLEN FROM 3.2 PERCENT TO 2.6 PERCENT AND, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM AID, PUBLIC SECTOR FACILITIES OFFERING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES HAVE INCREASED FROM 87 IN 1970 TO 284 TODAY. AID IS DEVELOPING A NEW PROJECT, WHICH I SUPPORT, TO FURTHER EXTEND THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND REACH GROUPS HERETOFORE IGNORED, SUCH AS ADOLESCENTS AND WORKING MOTHERS. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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